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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BURR, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal spirit, You have made of one blood all the people of the Earth. You are the God of our weary years and silent tears.

Lord, American history contains triumphant and tragic chapters. We read about freedom, justice, liberty, and equality, but also about slavery, injustice, violence, and racism. Thank You for the seasons in a nation's life that enable it to admit mistakes and seek to right wrongs.

Forgive the negligence and passivity of our lawmakers that nurtured thousands of documented and undocumented American lynchings. Forgive the failure to act that permitted more than 99 percent of the perpetrators of these sins to escape punishment.

In these challenging days, help our Senators to remember that all that is necessary for evil to thrive is for good people to do nothing. Transform our contrition into service that will today bring liberty to captives, sight to the blind, and comfort to the bruised.

Bless the descendants of those who were lynched. Remind them that You can transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows and make the crooked places straight. Give them the wisdom to see that in everything, You are working for the good of those who love You.

Lord, empower all of us to continue to strive for right, until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BURR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 13, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BURR, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BURR thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will debate Executive Calendar No. 66, the nomination of Thomas Griffith to be a circuit judge for the DC Circuit. The vote on confirmation will be at 10 a.m. tomorrow. I am pleased we will be able to have a vote on this nomination, the sixth circuit court judge to be confirmed in the last couple of weeks.

Following the debate on the Griffith nomination, the Senate will then debate S. Res. 39, the antilynching resolution, under a 3-hour time agreement. As was announced last week, there will be a voice vote on the adoption of the

resolution. We will have no recorded votes during today's session.

Tomorrow, following the vote on the Griffith nomination, the Senate will proceed to consideration of H.R. 6, the Energy bill. Chairman DOMENICI will be on the Senate floor ready to start the amendment process tomorrow morning. I encourage Senators to work with the bill managers so we can make significant progress on that important bill this week.

As a reminder, there will be no votes this Friday, June 17, to accommodate the Democratic retreat.

With that, Mr. President, I am going to turn to the Democratic leader, and then I will have a longer opening statement following his remarks.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a statement of a few minutes. Does the Senator want me to do that now?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, let's proceed with the Democratic leader, and I will follow with my statement.

Mr. REID. I appreciate the courtesy of the distinguished majority leader. I do have something to do, so I appreciate that.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER SENATOR JAMES EXON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am terribly saddened by the death of Jim Exon. Those of us who had the opportunity to serve with him are so troubled by his death. He was an outstanding Senator. He was fair. He worked on both sides of the aisle. He protected the State of Nebraska and our country so well.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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